



Division of EMS

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TO: Department/Service Chiefs, Training Officers (Ambulance Services)
Physician Directors/Nurse Managers (Hospital Emergency Departments)
Pharmacy Directors – Licensed Rhode Island Hospitals
Licensed EMT-Instructor/Coordinators
Ambulance Service Advisory Board

FROM: Samuel W. Adams, Interim Chief
Division of Emergency Medical Services

DATE: May 6, 2010

SUBJECT: Amendments – RI Prehospital Care Protocols and Standing Orders

This memorandum is to inform you of amendments to the *Rhode Island Prehospital Care Protocols and Standing Orders* in response to evolving pre-hospital care standards. These amendments include a new protocol for management of ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) patients. The Premature Ventricular Contraction (PVC) and Radiation protocols have been deleted (the latter is covered in the Major Incident protocol.) All protocols have been completely reformatted and renumbered to improve readability and to facilitate future revisions. The new protocols are effective November 1, 2010, though ambulance services may opt to adopt the new protocols early if desired (see below.)

A complete copy of the amended protocol book is enclosed, along with an advisory notice summarizing the changes made. The complete protocol book is also available online at http://www.health.ri.gov/hsr/professions/ems/downloads/EMSProtocols_Nov2010.pdf. While the Division of EMS will provide additional copies of the protocol book to licensed ambulance services and EMT-Instructor/Coordinators, there may be a substantial delay in availability due to the workload currently facing our print shop. Services and programs needing additional books are therefore encouraged to use their own resources to print books using the PDF file indicated above.

As would be expected, these protocol revisions also effect minimum equipment requirements for ambulances/vehicles. The *Rhode Island Ambulance Licensure and Inspection Manual* is being updated accordingly and will be forwarded to each ambulance service when completed.

Several ambulance services have indicated they would like to implement the new protocols prior to the effective date indicated above. This is acceptable provided the ambulance service chief of record sends written notification to the Division of EMS using the enclosed form letter. This letter will be retained in the service license file maintained by the Division of EMS.

Questions regarding technical or clinical content of the new protocols should be directed to Dr. Williams at kwilliams@lifespan.org. Inquiries related to administrative procedures should be directed to Sam Adams, Interim Chief of EMS, sam.adams@health.ri.gov.

We are grateful to the following individuals who assisted in the development and review of these protocols:

Michael DeMello (North Providence Fire Department)
Raymond Medeiros (North Providence Fire Department)
Gino Paolucci (Town of South Kingstown EMS)
Keith Richards (Town of South Kingstown EMS)
Lisa Waterman (North Scituate Fire Department)

Enclosures

- Rhode Island Prehospital Care Protocols and Standing Orders
- Advisory Notice #10-002: Summary of changes to *Rhode Island Prehospital Care Protocols and Standing Orders*
- Form letter for early implementation of the protocols.